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**ALERT** **TOP STORY**

DOWNTOWN | JUDGE DOYLE SQUARE

## **New Downtown Madison sculpture gets rave reviews - but what is it?**

**Gayle Worland | Wisconsin State Journal**

Nov 16, 2023

**J**eannie McCarville walks past the construction site at Judge Doyle Square nearly every day as she heads to the gym on break from her Downtown Madison job.

So she was happy to hear that a new sculpture on her route finally had been dedicated Wednesday because it meant that nearby developments were nearing completion.

“Since 2017, this has been a constant construction site,” McCarville said of the 200 block of South Pinckney Street, where Madison’s newest public art now stands.



Artist Sunghee Min walks past her sculpture, “Greeting Arc I & Greeting Arc II,” during a dedication of the piece in the 200 block of South Pinckney Street in Downtown Madison on Wednesday morning. Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway and Ald. Mike Verveer, right, were also at the ceremony.

JOHN HART photos, STATE JOURNAL

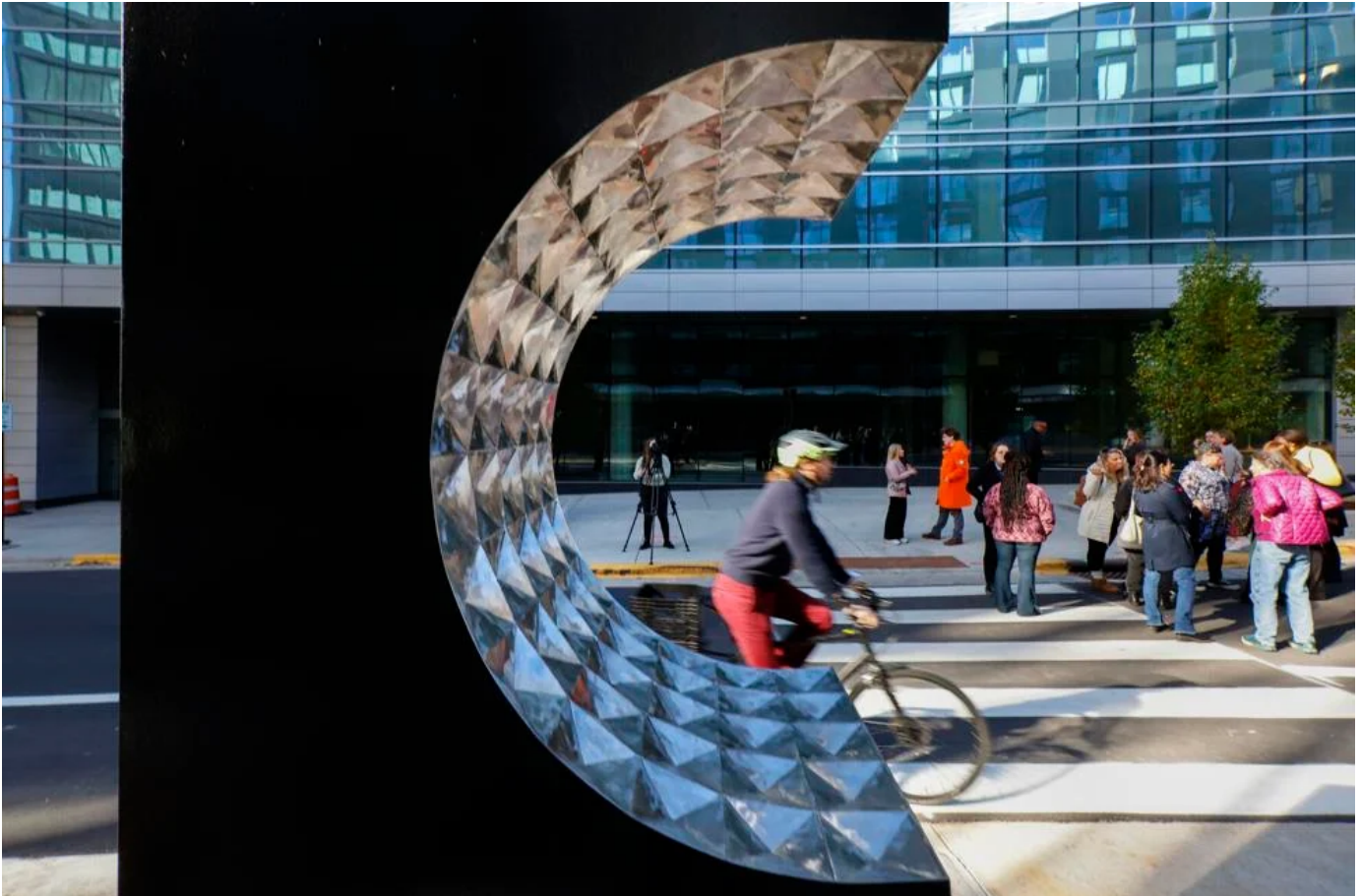
And like a number of passersby Wednesday afternoon, McCarville had only positive things to say about the artwork. The two-part metal sculpture titled “Greeting Arc I & Greeting Arc II,” created by Minnesota-based artist Sunghee Min, stands on a median dividing traffic on Pinckney. The two arcs face one another, flanking a short sidewalk.

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Out on a walk Wednesday, Dominic Dasho paused to try out the experience for future pedestrians who will cross Pinckney between the two arcs.



Stainless steel curves evoke the waves of nearby Lake Mendota, surrounded by the land of Madison, in artist Sunghee Min's two-piece sculpture, "Greeting Arc I & Greeting Arc II."

JOHN HART, STATE JOURNAL

"When you walk between them, it does something different. It's interesting from your peripheral vision," said Dasho, who both lives and works Downtown near the sculpture site.

"They look like the name — 'Greeting' — friendly and kind," Dasho said. "They're not too gaudy or random, and the black works with the buildings around them."

The curved shapes and the reflective stainless steel interior of the abstract arcs evoke the waves of Lake Monona, which can be seen down the street from certain angles.

“It’s cool. They stand in unison,” said Alexa Sreck, a UW-Madison student who along with friend Layla Olmos was on her way to the lakefront Wednesday afternoon.

Set between the future Judge Doyle Square Embassy Suites hotel, scheduled to open in 2024, and the NoVo Apartment building, “Greeting Arc I & Greeting Arc II” cost a total of about \$53,000, said Karin Wolf, arts program administrator for the city of Madison. The city’s Engineering Division contributed \$30,000, \$20,000 came from the Municipal Art Fund, and Friends of the Madison Arts Commission will fund the remainder, she said.

David Bell, who works Downtown and was out for a break during an unseasonably warm November day, praised the works and also efforts by the city to bring more public art to Madison.

“It’s nice that they’re incorporating art more and more into public spaces,” he said, noting that Eau Claire has outpaced Madison with its ever-changing outdoor **Sculpture Tour**.

Years before the current plan for the Judge Doyle Square site was in place, a previous developer, Beitler Real Estate Services, had selected a sculpture of a figure riding a bike by the British artist Mackenzie Thorpe to place in the Pinckney Street median, Wolf said.

“We have to give Beitler the credit for creating an expectation for art in that location,” she said in an email, even though Min’s evocative, abstract geometric work is far different.

Jen Sweeney, passing by the new sculptures on Wednesday, said she thought the artwork “suits Madison well.”

“It’s unique,” said Sweeney, who works nearby. “I don’t totally understand it, but that’s part of the intrigue.”

*Editor's note: This story has been updated to correct the name of the lake visible from the sculpture. It is Lake Monona.*